

Claim 6, line 1, delete "for upgrading a titaniferous mineral";

line 2, change "2" to --18--; change "compounds comprise" to --additive comprises--.

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7.(Amended) A process according to Claim 6, wherein the titaniferous material contains an iron oxide impurity and is heated to a maximum temperature of 1000°C for a period which avoids substantial reduction to metal of [contained] the iron [oxides] oxide impurity.

Claim 10, line 2, after "with" insert --1-20 wt. %--; lines 3-4, delete "having...hydrochloric acid--.

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11.(Amended) A process according to claim [1] 17, wherein the [compounds include] additive includes compounds which extend the effect of other compounds in the additive.

Claim 12, line 1, after "11" insert --,--.

Claim 13, line 1, change "1" to --17,--;

line 2, change "compounds are" to --additive is--.

Claim 14, line 1, change "1" to --17,--.

Claim 15, line 1, after "14" insert --,--.

Please cancel Claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and insert the following new claims:

--17. A process upgrading of a titaniferous material by removal of impurities, comprising the steps of:

i) heating a titaniferous material containing impurities at a temperature of less than 1300°C in the presence of an additive which promotes formation of a liquid oxide phase containing said impurities at said temperature, to form a solid titaniferous phase and a liquid oxide phase containing said impurities;

ii) cooling the heated solid titaniferous material and liquid oxide phase to form a solidified material comprising a titaniferous phase and an impurity containing phase that is leachable in an acid or alkaline leachant; and

iii) leaching the solidified material with an acid leachant, an alkaline leachant (or a sequential combination of an acid and an alkaline leachant), to leach at least a portion of said impurities.

18. A process according to claim 17, wherein the additive comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of sodium, potassium, lithium, phosphorus, silicon and boron.